

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-16 and 22-26, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A speech signal processing apparatus comprising:

speech segment search means for searching a speech database for speech segments that satisfy a phonetic environment;

HMM learning means for computing HMMs of phonemes on the basis of a search result of said speech segment search means;

segment recognition means for performing segment recognition of the speech segments on the basis of the HMMs of the phonemes; and

registration segment means for determining and registering a speech segment in a segment dictionary when the number of speech segments recognized by said segment recognition means is not less than a predetermined value.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said registration segment means registers a speech segment in the segment dictionary if at least a vowel part of the speech segment is correctly recognized, even when the number of

speech segments recognized by said segment recognition means is not more than a predetermined value.

6-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A speech signal processing method comprising:
a speech segment search step of searching a speech database for speech segments that satisfy a phonetic environment;
an HMM learning step of computing HMMs of phonemes on the basis of a search result in said speech segment search step;
a segment recognition step of performing segment recognition of the speech segments on the basis of the HMMs of the phonemes; and
a registration segment step of determining and registering a speech segment in a segment dictionary when the number of speech segments recognized in said segment recognition step is not less than a predetermined value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said registration segment step includes a step of registering a speech segment in the segment dictionary if at least a vowel part of the speech segment is correctly recognized, even when the number of speech segments recognized in said segment recognition step is not more than a predetermined value.

13-26. (Canceled)